Learning Conversation Notes	
Name of Partner:	Date:
Bobbie Brown – Music Talk Program for	December 16, 2004
Children with Autism	
Number of Children Served:	Ages:
77	3 year old –21
	4 year old – 36
	5 year old - 20
When Served:	Gender:
August 2004 – December 2004	Boys – 60
	Girls - 17
	Ethnicity:
	Caucasian – 39
	Afr/Am - 5
	Hispanic – 16
	Asian - 9
	Hindu - 8

Conversation Participants: Bobbie Brown, Nancy Baggett, Don Ferretti, Heidi Kolbe - Facilitator

Desired Outcomes:

- There will be improved communication skills between children who participate in the program and their peers, educators, and parents.
- Financial sustainability for "Music Talk", reducing dependence on First 5 funding.

Performance Measures:

- Demographics (number of 0-5 served by gender, age, ethnicity, and when services were provided).
- Survey results and written observations from speech language pathologist, parents, and educators.
- Video and audio taped recording of children communicating through music (three sample classrooms).
- Evidence of incorporation and amounts of new funding received.

What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes?

Anecdotes show that children are enthusiastic about the program and look forward to participating.

Language development with special needs children must have consistency, reliability, and repetition to be effective. This routine and structure is particularly important for children with ASD.

Five out of the 77 children are living with grandparents – this seems to be a trend.

In what ways will we apply what we have learned from our data?

Weekly meetings of the facilitators to review the journals and share what is learned in the classes are important. This information is used in determining what needs to be emphasized in subsequent classes. This will continue.

There needs to be a tremendous amount of immediate communication between the child and their primary caregiver to reinforce the strides made in the music class.

The current classes are all with 3-5 year olds. They are starting a class with 2 year olds in 2005. The reason is that the sooner the ASD child can get assistance the better.

Other points that were made during the conversation:

Classes with a maximum of 8 children lasting 30 minutes each were provided at the following schools: Olive Ranch -3; Roseville -2; Rocklin -1; Auburn -3; Lincoln -1

The highest percentage of the boy to girl ratio for ASD is African American followed by Hispanic.

It was observed that in the Hispanic families, the girls seem to get more attention to than the boys. This may account for early identification of ASD behaviors in the girls in these families.

Bobbie meets with parents once a month to get informal feedback from them and to verify that what the children learned in the class is showing up at home. Also, a parent journal is circulated to gather comments.

The overall goal is not so much for the children to learn a song – the goal is for them to learn to communicate, talk and express themselves. Music is a great medium for this.

Some accomplishments like the child being able to say "apple" when they see one may seem minor to those who do not have a child with special needs, but to those who do, this can be a significant step. Also, just getting the child to focus on something with you is significant because it shows that the child is present in the activity.

Since small accomplishments like clapping hands or, verbalizing one word are important, having the facilitators using journals to keep track of the accomplishments is key so they do not get lost. Also, seeing the accomplishments in writing helps the facilitators to see how they are making a difference with the children.

Videos of the music classes are shown to the children and parents. The videos show children interacting with other children and the facilitators. The videos may also be taken home.

Children are encouraged to share instruments with other children. This is difficult for any child this age much less a child with special needs.

Many parents are surprised that music can calm their child down.

Sustainability:

Music Talk Inc. is now a non-profit organization. This was accomplished with help from First 5 Partner Diane Bras. This will help with fundraising to sustain the program beyond First 5 funding. About \$7000 a year is needed for each class.

Since July, two grants have been applied for, no word yet on the results. Fundraisers are planned for the spring such as a jazz concert and a wine tasting.

Bobbie is also exploring the possibility of parents financing services.

A school in Granite Bay is interested in starting a class that they would pay for outside of

Next Steps:

- Expand classes to include hearing impaired through PCOE Special Education.
- Apply for grants and hold fundraisers in the spring of 2005.
- Start a class with 2 year olds in 2005.
- Administer the parent surveys as a pilot in the parent support meetings and evaluate the usefulness of the survey and the information it yields before using it with all parents.
- Find and train another facilitator.
- Next Learning Conversation: April 2005